



October
2016

The Surrey Amateur Radio Club *Communicator*

Another Contest Season!

British Columbia QSO Party 2016

an  event

VE7SAR

*First Place — BC
Multi-Operator Low-Power SSB*

Score: 104,618

*President — Dave Johnson VE7VR
Contest coordinator — Rebecca Kimoto VA7BE*

Winter morning, Boundary Bay, Tsawwassen
by VA7BEC

The Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club

October 2016



At The Last Meeting...

SURREY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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At The September 14, 2016 General Meeting...

Welcome

Stan welcomed the group to the meeting at the EM BC PREOC at 7pm. There were 20 attendees including one new member and ham class student.

Stan welcomes everyone back from the summer break. This meeting had a slightly different format as we had no presenter this month. The second half of the meeting was a social meeting.

Committee Reports

Operations Training Centre

Stan made a motion to spend approx \$400 for purchasing LMR 400 coax to cover the distance from the radio room to the roof. This is needed because the coax routing in the ceiling is near the buildings internet cables and we would like the signals shielded. The existing coax used is our field day coax and should be kept for that use long term.

The Internet is still not available but we are still pursuing options.

Donated items to the club are stored at the OTC and will be available for inspection and testing. Silent auction sheets are available and we have yet to set a deadline for bids.

Repeater Manager

There was an open call for a repeater manager. George Merchant has offered to help train others but is unable take on the official position alone.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party is traditionally our December meeting. This year it will be held on December 10th starting at 11am with lunch served at noon.

The venue is "Occasions on the Pond" next to the Surrey courthouse and across from the OTC. Parking will be at the OTC.

A catering company will be used to provide the food on site so the menu is slightly different. The menu was read aloud by Jinty and sounds fantastic. Fees include the room rental, but there is no liquor license (Sorry folks, do NOT bring your own). Total cost for the event will be \$1483.70 (based on 50 people attending)

Expected cost to members/guests \$25 per person and non members \$30 per person. The club is covering \$5 per member to keep the cost at \$25. If you pay via PayPal please include a note that it's for the Christmas Party. Donations are requested for the Christmas Party door prizes please let Jinty know what you may have and she can provide an appropriately worded letter of introduction.

Membership

John Brodie was absent at this meeting. We have approximately 100 members to date.

Ham class (Fall offering)

The Fall Basic class started this week and 6 students are attending (Now 8 -Ed.).

Coffee Break

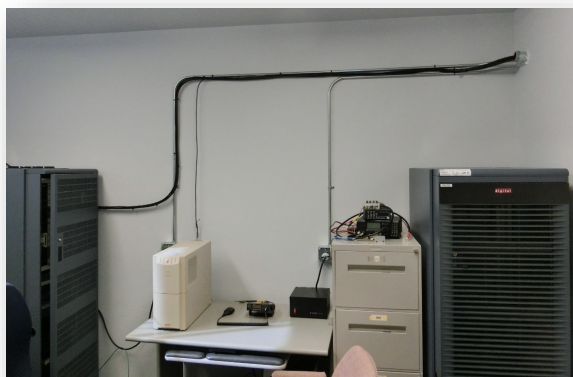
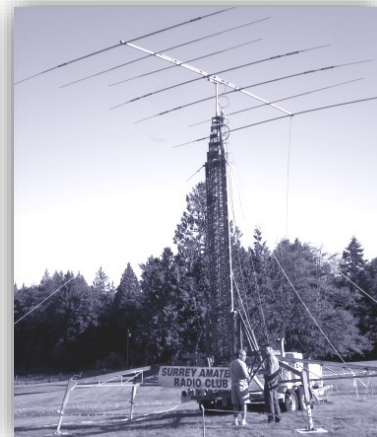
Coffee break was extended and several social discussions took place.

Nell and Ralph shared details of Ralph's brush with death and how miraculously it was overcome. The result is nothing short of amazing and we are all relieved to see Ralph at the first meeting of the fall, so soon after his heart attack and stroke.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm

~ Minutes prepared by
Jeremy Morse VE7TMY

More progress at the Surrey Amateur Radio Operational Training Centre (OTC). Right: A grounding box has been installed to ensure all feed lines are properly terminated in the event of a lightning strike,



Left: Runs of coax from the roof come into the radio room in an orderly manner

The **SARC Communicator** is published monthly except July and August for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery of this newsletter, notify **SARCcommunicator @ outlook.com**

Non-members living in the Greater Vancouver area may receive one trial issue.

Beyond our membership area, annual Communicator subscriptions are available for a \$5 donation towards our Field Day fund.

SARC maintains a website at **www.ve7sar.net** that includes club history, meetings, news, photos and other information.

Kalmar Koffee Klatch Reminder



The SARC Weekly Koffee Klatch is on Saturday at the Kalmar Restaurant at 80th and King George Hwy in Surrey at 9:00 am. Bring your significant other, bring your family, see old friends and have fun.

On The Cover...

SARC has a very active contest group. Now, with access to a club station, more members and visitors will have an opportunity to contest or just chat with far-away places.

VE7SAR placed well in the ORCA BC QSO Party this year, obtaining first place in the multi-operator low-power station category. Thank you John Brodie VA7XB for sharing the use of your station and congratulations to all the SARC participants.



October 2016



The Connected Station

Sheldon Ward VA7XNL

Adding UTC Time to Windows

How often do you need to know the Coordinated Universal Time?

How often do you need to know the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)? If you are like me and enjoy ham radio contesting it is quite often. Contesting sites such as the WA7BNM Contest Calendar

(<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>) always list contest start and stop times in UTC (aka Zulu time). Or perhaps you are a pilot where again UTC time is often used.

Here I will show you how to very simply add UTC time to your Windows 7, 8 or 10 computer. There is nothing to download so no need to worry about viruses.

Both procedures for Windows 7 and 10 are very similar. Windows 10 has an additional step and looks a bit different but the final result is the same.

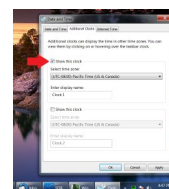
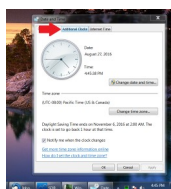
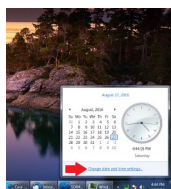
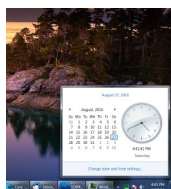
Windows 7

Hovering the mouse pointer over the Windows date and time on the Taskbar will show the date and day of the week. When we are done it will also show the local and UTC time.

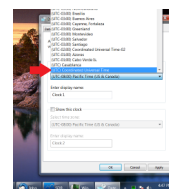
Clicking on the Windows date and time will show the calendar and local time. Again when we are done it will also show the UTC time and day of the week.

Click on Change date and time settings...

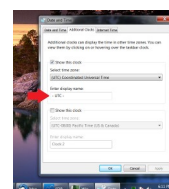
Click on the Additional Clocks tab.



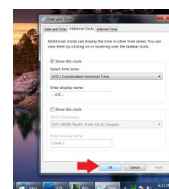
Check the Show this clock box.



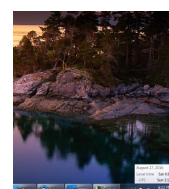
Scroll to the (UTC) Coordinated Universal Time and select it from the list.



Enter the name to show for this clock. I chose to add dashes in front and back of UTC to lightly highlight it. You can format it as you like.



Click on OK. Now when you hover the mouse pointer over the Windows date and time on the Taskbar it will show both the local and UTC time and day of the week.



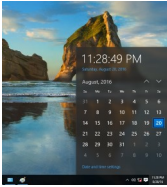
Clicking on the Windows date and time will now show both the local and UTC time and day of the week. The UTC time will stay correct even after the twice yearly local day light savings changes.

Windows 10

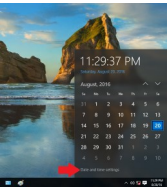
Hovering the mouse pointer over the Windows date and time on the Taskbar will show the date and day of the week. When we are done it will



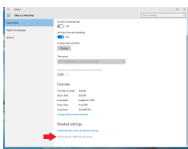
also show the local and UTC time.



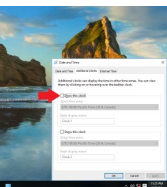
Clicking on the Windows date and time will show the calendar and local time. Again when we are done it will also show the UTC time and day of the week.



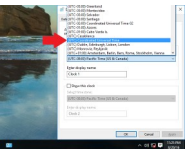
Click on Change date and time settings...



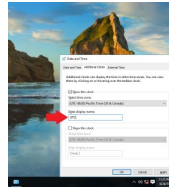
Click on Add clocks for different time zones. This is an additional step from the Windows 7 instructions.



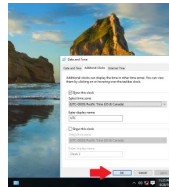
Check the Show this clock box.



Scroll to the (UTC) Coordinated Universal Time and select it from the list.



Enter the name to show for this clock. As stated in the Windows 7 steps you can format it as you like. Note, I failed to select the UTC time zone in the previous step. Oops.



Click on OK.



Now when you hover the mouse pointer over the Windows date and time on the Taskbar it will show both the local and UTC time and day of the week.



Clicking on the Windows date and time will now show both the local and UTC time and day of the week.

The UTC time will stay correct even after the twice yearly local day light savings changes.

Now you have no excuse not to participate in contesting!

Gotcha!

~ Sheldon VA7XNL

The UTC time will stay correct even after the twice yearly local day light savings changes.

Does Anyone Know Frederick George Rice?

I am doing research to discover more about my great grandfather Frederick George Rice. He was an active amateur radio operator in the 1960's and likely much earlier. As a boy I recall the radio hut that he kept at his home in the Bridgeview area of Surrey, especially the postcards from contacts all around the world stuck to the walls. After his death in 1970 all his equipment and correspondence was disposed of, and we now know very little about his radio activities. I was wondering if one of you or any other club in the area are still keeping historical records, and whether Fred Rice might be listed there. If so I'd be eager to view the information and add a copy to our family archives.

Richard Chadderton

If you can help Richard, or if you know of someone who might have the information he is seeking, please contact him directly via email: richard.chadderton@gmail.com

October 2016



Tech Topics

Fred Orsetti VE7IO

The ongoing station improvements at VE7IO

A future project will be to replace the feed through connectors with lightning arrestors.

This entire project began in July 2015 with work on the SteppIR, carried on to October with work on the tri-band, took a break over the winter then began further station upgrades in July of 2016.

After the work on the antennas, which also included the wire antennas for 80 and 40, there was noticeable improvement in noise reduction and better RF radiation. But, even though there was noise reduction it was still not where I wanted to be. So with some kind of a rough plan I began to improve grounding at the base of the towers.

The two Delhi towers are approximately 130 ft apart in a north south line. The south tower is about 200 ft from the shack and the north tower about 40 ft from the shack. Both towers had grounding some but the feed lines were not grounded at the base of the towers. So the place to start was to install an aluminum angle across the tower, cut the coax and re-install it with proper grounding on both towers.

The SteppIR antenna is mounted on the south tower and was fed with LDF 5 which I found had water underneath the cover. It was causing irregular SWR readings and when I found drops of water in the lower connector I knew it had to be replaced, it ran from the base of the tower to the antenna.

I had some LMR 600 which I wanted to use to replace the LDF 5 but it was minus connectors. After making some calls I was able to have the connectors professionally installed thanks to the resources of radio amateurs in the lower mainland. With the installation of the LMR 600 the SteppIR is now fed from shack to the base of the tower with LMR 400 and from the base of the tower to the antenna with LMR 600 and it works very well, another problem area was eliminated.



The South Tower after grounding was Installed



The North Tower after grounding was Installed



The north tower is 64 ft, has a Mosley CI 33 tri-band antenna for HF, an Isopole for 440, Ringo Ranger for VHF and a dual band Diamond for VHF/UHF.

The Mosley is at 64 ft, the Ringo Ranger is at 80ft and the Isopole and Diamond are at 58ft.

In the fall of 2015 we took down the tri-band antenna, replaced the traps and jumpers so the next job for the north tower was to install the same cable grounding that I had completed on the south tower. With more antennas and the rotator cable, which had to be relocated, it took a bit longer but the results were great. I also pounded in two new 8ft ground rods, connected the cable ground and the tower ground to the new rods.

At this point I thought I had finished with tower grounding but I was wrong as a problem showed up on while running high power on the tri-band antenna. While increasing power towards legal limit the SWR would climb to 2.5:1 around the 800 watt range and then drop back down to 1.2:1 at legal limit. I had no idea what the issue was, and I am still not positive. I was beginning to think the antenna matching may be failing and then in a discussion with Stan, VA7NF, he pointed out that the north tower was only 40 ft from the shack ground and therefore the two grounds should be tied together. The thinking here was the tower ground could be an island with a different ground voltage than the shack ground voltage. As there was a contest coming up where I could run high power I ran a temporary ground from the tower ground to the shack ground and was pleasantly surprised to see that my SWR

problem gone away.

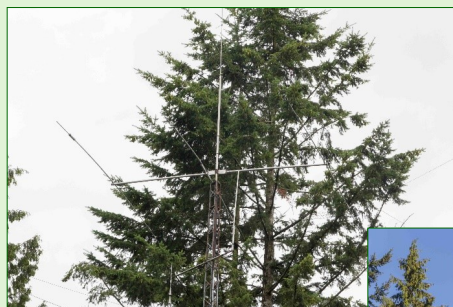
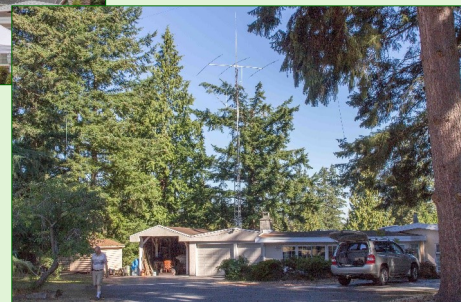
While the technical explanation is still not clear connecting the tower ground to the shack ground fixed the SWR problem with the tri-band antenna. Stan pointed out that there also is a need to connect the shack/ tower ground to the house ground so I am now in the process of doing this.



New ground rods installed



Left photos are before tree trimming and Right after



As can be seen from the photos, the antenna is now in the clear and, of course, is working much better. with no issues, nice!

In two recent contests I used the tri-band antenna and worked many EU stations using legal limit with no issues, nice.



October 2016



Contesting at VE7IO

My last and maybe my most important project was a serious problem with a fir tree that had grown up past the tri-band antenna on the north tower and in fact was touching the elements. Use of this antenna for EU was marginal as the tree was directly to the north of the antenna and close.

Since setting up two stations for training and contesting I have had to address many issues that I never had with a single station. RF in the shack, TVI, computer crashes do to RF, radio to radio intermodulation and, most difficult, to eliminate noise. One by one problem areas were identified and solutions worked out. I have had support from local hams, Telus and hams in other clubs all of which has made the station at VE7IO perform up to expectations.

With the last project in progress, connecting all the grounds, I think I am ready for the upcoming contest and DX season.

See you in the pileup!

~ Fred VE7IO

During the rainy season, usually contest time, I believe the tree was absorbing most of the RF preventing a good signal path the EU. *(before and after photos previous page.)*

A good friend, who runs a major contest station, once told me 'you will find running two legal limit stations much more challenging than a single station', he was oh so correct.

For Sale:

I am reducing my Amateur Radio inventory...

Icom IC-7000 The Icom IC-7000 is an all-mode HF/VHF/UHF mobile transceiver. The 7000 employs two Digital Signal Processing chips! You can select sharp or soft filter shape. And variable twin PBT allows you to either narrow the IF passband, or shift the entire passband to eliminate QRM. All the controls are intuitive to use.

The 2.5 inch (diagonal) TFT color display presents numbers and indicators in bright, concentrated colors for easy recognition (the display can be shown on an external monitor). You can choose from three background colors and two font styles. Not only does this display provide radio status, but it also supports a two-mode band scope. In the Center Mode the scope is centered on the receiving frequency. In the Fixed Mode the scope sweeps a fixed range. This is a great transceiver and easy to use for portable and satellite operation. [We talked to the ISS on it at Field Day](#). Comes with the removable faceplate and separation cable (\$60 option), digital modes interface (for PSK-31 etc.) and a data cable for Ham Radio Deluxe or N1MM connectivity. In original box with manuals, all for \$1050

Hi-Q 5/80 Mobile multi-band HF (screwdriver) antenna. The finest antenna of its kind, built to military specifications and proven in battle both in Iraq and Afghanistan. This antenna is like new, complete with cap hat for better 80m response, 8 foot whip, electronic manual tuning control and an automatic tuner. Never mobile mounted but used in RV sites and remote locations. This package is over \$900 US new, offered for \$800 Cdn., a 40% saving.

Combine the IC-7000 plus the Hi-Q for a complete all-mode HF station, package price \$1700.
All equipment Clean, in excellent condition and problem free. Contact John [VE7TI @ outlook.com](mailto:VE7TI@outlook.com)



Report From Ireland

John Brodie VA7XB

A Visit With Tony EI4DIB

John VA7XB reporting in from Dublin, or more correctly from Lucan, which is sort of a bedroom community of Dublin - much like Surrey is to Vancouver.

Today we travelled to Drogheda 1/2 hour by train north of Dublin to visit our Irish ham friend, Tony EI4DIB and his wife, Madeline. Drogheda is the site of the famous Battle of the Boyne, where in 1690, William III of England (formerly William of Orange) defeated the forces of James II allied with Louis XIV of France and the Irish and thereby turned the tide to Protestantism in Britain. We toured the battle site and then moved on to other ancient sites including Old Mellifont Abbey and Newgrange, the latter a Neolithic edifice nearby.

Tony proudly showed us his impressive radio station featuring many VHF radios all working on different frequencies including 70 MHz, a band not available to Canadians. Tony also has a Yaesu 857 for HF and a "cloud burner" wire antenna for 80 m, which remarkably gets him into North and South America. Tony has cancer and will soon be starting chemotherapy, so his friend Adrian O'Gorman EI2KJ helped with the touring duties.

The local ham club is the Dunkalk Amateur Radio Society EI7DAR, which has about 30 members.

These guys would like to twin up with SARC and get something going between the two clubs. Personally I think it's a fine idea - we could share newsletters and see what comes out of it. Maybe encourage our members to travel to Ireland and vice versa. I told Tony and Adrian I would float the idea for consideration by our Exec and membership. What do you think?

~ John VA7XB from Dublin



October 2016



Back to Basics

John Schouten VE7TI

From The Basic Question Bank

"At its surface, the Sun creates about 60 megawatts per square meter. Now that is some transmitter!"

B-007-005-011

HF Radio propagation cycles have a period of approximately 11:

- A. centuries
- B. years
- C. months
- D. days

The solar cycle or solar magnetic activity cycle is the nearly periodic 11-year change in the Sun's activity, including changes in the levels of solar radiation and ejection of solar material and appearance, changes in the number of sunspots, flares, and other manifestations. Solar cycles have been observed (by changes in the sun's appearance and by changes seen on Earth, such as auroras) for centuries.

The Sun emits electromagnetic radiation of all kinds, ranging in frequency from below HF all the way to the X-ray region. Much of the energy is emitted as heat. Some solar radiation ends up here on Earth, providing the energy needed to sustain all activity here including HF radio propagation. Although our Sun is not a particularly large or spectacular star, it still radiates an almost unimaginable amount of energy into space. The total power

radiated by the Sun is estimated at 4×10^{23} kW that is, the number four followed by 23 zeroes. At its surface, the Sun creates about 60 megawatts per square meter. Now that is some transmitter!

Cycle 24

The current solar cycle, number 24, began on January 4, 2008, with minimal activity until early 2010. It is on track to have the lowest recorded sunspot activity since accurate records began in 1750. The cycle featured a "double-peaked" solar maximum. The first peak reached 99 in 2011 and the second in early 2014 at 101.

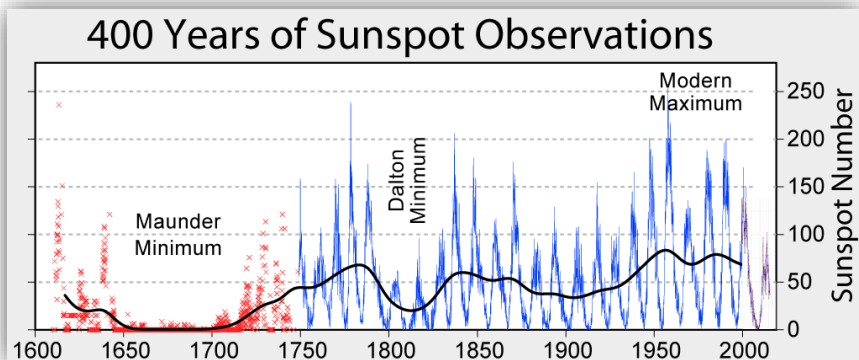
The Sun's apparent surface, the photosphere, radiates more actively when there are more sunspots. Sunspot activity has a major effect on long distance radio communications, particularly on the shortwave bands although medium wave and low VHF frequencies are also affected. High levels of sunspot activity lead to improved signal propagation on higher frequency bands, although they also increase the levels of solar noise and ionospheric disturbances. These effects are caused by impact of the increased level of solar radiation on the ionosphere.

Skywave modes of radio communication operate by bending (refracting) radio waves (electromagnetic radiation) through the ionosphere. During the "peaks" of the solar cycle, the ionosphere becomes increasingly ionized by solar photons and cosmic rays. This affects the propagation of the radio wave in complex ways that can either facilitate or hinder communications. Changes in solar output affect the maximum usable frequency, a limit on the highest frequency usable for communications.

<http://www.solarham.net/>

The correct answer therefore is 'B. years'.

~ John VE7TI





A SARC Basic Course Retrospective

Samantha Halliday VA7HBE

Hello, SARC Communicator. Hello, readers. You may have seen my name pop up a couple of times lately, but now I'm excited to be in the newsletter with something of my own! I'm Samantha, I'm sixteen years old, and this May I got my amateur radio basic license - with honours, too. Finally entering the world of amateur radio came with a lot of passion, learning, and a bit of studying, and having a gate wide open to another enormous world of learning is perhaps one of the things about having a license I'm most excited about. Though I'm proud about my achievement, I have to thank the Surrey Amateur Radio Club's basic radio course for my success.

The SARC sets up a course so amateurs-to-be can prepare for their license test. It went through all the topics we needed, through on-air etiquette and the long list of laws, among more interesting things like electric theory and propagation (man, those are fascinating topics). However, what I appreciated most in the course was the caring environment, where asking questions, talking with others, and even joking around a little is perfectly normal. Most of the time, I felt very welcome in the class - though being the only girl in the class was a little disappointing - and I especially want to thank John Schouten, Stan Williams, and John Brodie for all being incredibly knowledgeable, kind, and personable. It helps when a learning

environment is friendly; I don't think I could learn if it isn't. In fact, it's wonderful that amateur radio in general is so friendly to everyone.

See, the thing about the world of amateur radio is that it's just so big. If you don't like one aspect of it, there's going to be another that piques your interest. Plus, it's not just a hobby for one type of person or one type of community. Anyone, and yes, I mean anyone, can get a license. Doesn't matter if you're old or young, male, female, neither, or both; what matters is that amateur radio is interesting to you, even if it's just digital radio or only using a phone mode. My hope is that other teens like me discover this community and, like me, fall in love with it and all it has to offer, because this world isn't dying. As long as we're around, we'll make sure to let it thrive.

~ Samantha VA7HBE



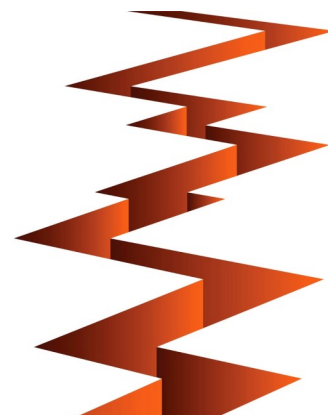
Sammi and MP Sukh Dhalial at Field Day 2016

GET READY TO SHAKEOUT!

On October 20th at 10:20am, millions of people worldwide will practice how to "Drop, Cover and Hold On" during the Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills.

British Columbians can participate by doing the drill and Amateurs can test preparedness by checking in.

After the event and personal safety check is done, amateur radio operators are encouraged to check in, on either 147.360 MHz or 146.550 Mhz for instructions.



October 2016



QRM

...from the Editor's Shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
An Interesting link?*

*Something to sell or something you are looking for?
eMail it to [SARCcommunicator @ outlook.com](mailto:SARCcommunicator@outlook.com) for inclusion in this column.*

Ralph Wrotniak

We were pleased to see Ralph and Nell Wrotniak at the last SARC General Meeting and the coffee that followed. Ralph looks well and he said that he feels good. Nell provided a blow by blow account of the events surrounding Ralph's heart attack, blow by blow because the CPR was quite physical, guided by the staff at BC Ambulance dispatch.

Ralph... its nice to see you vertically rather than horizontally polarized!

Ham radio 'like fishing'

The Chicago Tribune reports on the art, the science and the continuing fascination behind ham radio usage

"Making a rare or difficult contact with someone, or making something work that is a challenge. It's a good adrenaline rush, just like gaming," said Tim McGillen N9CA, program chairman for the Lake County Amateur Radio Club.

McGillen likens ham radio use to fishing, meaning you don't always know what, or who, you will catch.

"Just imagine catching the same eight-inch fish every time," he said. "After a while, it would get pretty boring. It would lose its challenge. The same goes with using a cell-phone or Internet compared to using a ham radio to reel in someone else. It's the challenge of it all."

"Some of it is pure luck, some of it is pure science," he added.

Read the full story at URL: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/opinion/ct-ptb-davich-ham-radio-operators-st-0523-20160522-story.html>



**Reminder!!!
My SARC
membership
renewal is due**

Delta Com-Fest Sunday October 2, 2016

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. General admission \$5.00

South Delta Recreation Centre, 1720 56th Street, Delta (Tsawwassen), off highway 17. Plenty of free parking.

Talk-in (primary) VE7RDE 444.425+ T107.2 (secondary) VE7SUN 147.340+ T107.2 If you have questions please contact us
http://deltaamateurradio.com/wp/?page_id=3696



Page 13—News You Can Lose

The Lighter Side of ~~Amateur Radio~~
Engineering

Understanding Engineers

Two engineering students were biking across a university campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, 'Take what you want.' The first engineer nodded approvingly and said, 'Good choice: The clothes probably wouldn't have fit you anyway.'

To the optimist, the glass is half-full. To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

A priest, a doctor, and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers. The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!" The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!" The priest said, "Here comes the greens-keeper. Let's have a word with him." He said, "Hello George, What's wrong with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?" The greens-keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime!" The group fell silent for a moment. The priest said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight." The doctor said, "Good idea. I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist colleague and see if there's anything she can do for them." The engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"

What is the difference between mechanical engineers and civil engineers? Mechanical engineers build weapons. Civil engineers build targets.

The graduate with a science degree asks, "Why does it work?" The graduate with an engineering degree asks, "How does it work?" The graduate with an accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?" The graduate with an arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

Normal people believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.

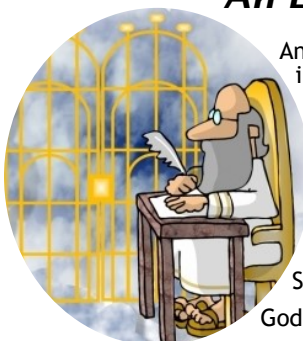
And finally... Two engineers were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking at its top. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing. "We're supposed to find the height of this flagpole," said Sven, "but we don't have a ladder." The woman took a wrench from her purse, loosened a couple of bolts, and laid the pole down on the ground. Then she took a tape measure from her pocketbook, took a measurement, announced, "Twenty-one feet, six inches," and walked away. One engineer shook his head and laughed, "A lot of good that does us. We ask for the height and she gives us the length!"

Both engineers have since quit their engineering jobs and are currently serving as elected members of Parliament.

How's Your Day Going?



An Engineer dies and goes to Hell



An engineer dies and goes to hell. Dissatisfied with the level of comfort, he starts designing and building improvements. After a while, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. The engineer is a pretty popular guy.

One day God calls and asks Satan, "So, how's it going down there?"

Satan says, "Hey things are going great. We've got air conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

God is horrified. "What? You've got an engineer? That's a mistake - he should never have gone down there! You know all engineers go to Heaven. Send him up here!"

Satan says, "No way. I like having an engineer on the staff. I'm keeping him."

God says, "Send him back up here or I'll sue."

"Yeah, right," Satan laughs, "and where are you going to get a lawyer?"

October 2016



The SEPAR Report

Garvin Yee VA7YEE



Garvin VA7YEE

1. Pacific Ring Report (Earthquake): Recent Earthquakes Near The Pacific Northwest.

The Pacific Northwest has had: (M1.5 or greater)

- 0 earthquakes today, dated September 18, 2016
- 22 earthquakes in the past 7 days
- 73 earthquakes in the past month

2. Saturday morning earthquake shakes parts of B.C. September 10, 2016 09:29 am. Earthquakes Canada says there's been a 4.3 magnitude quake in the Oliver, B.C. region. The quake registered in Penticton as a 4.1 magnitude. It was also felt in other regions, like Kaledon, Bridesville, Lake Country, and Abbotsford.

Alison Bird, a seismologist with the Geological Survey of Canada, says the quake happened just after 9:00 AM. "It was just 15 kilometers east of Penticton, so quite close to Oliver." It was also felt in Bridesville, Lake Country, and as far out as Abbotsford. When asked if there would be any aftershocks... "Unlikely but it's possible, they'd be very small. Probably not many of them would be felt. Probably up to magnitude three if we did have any, not terribly big." Emergency Management Info B.C. says there is no damage reported, and Earthquakes Canada says it's not expecting to hear of any.

If you were traveling, would you have packed your Car Emergency Kit? Pack your HT, complete with everything?

3. Earthquake off coast of Bella Bella

Posted: September 16, 2016 05:51 pm

A 5.2-magnitude earthquake hit south of Haida Gwaii this afternoon, about 200 kilometres from Bella Bella.

"The area in which this earthquake occurred in is a very seismically active area."

4. Every Tuesday evening at 1930 hrs (7:30pm PDT) we start a ½ hour net on a local repeater provided by the Surrey Amateur Radio Club (SARC) on 147.360 MHz. Simplex (146.550 MHz) test/check in, time permitting.

5. Thursday nights at 19:30 hours, we only provide Simplex operations starting on frequency 146.550 and changing frequencies and bands for further signal checking. During these tests, we encourage those with mobile or hand held capabilities to try different locations each time to become more knowledgeable as to what to expect in a real disaster. We are unable to predict where we will be located when we are needed. Additional training sessions and practice exercises are scheduled throughout the year including participation with other departments and agencies. Also a good opportunity to practice being net control.

6. On Saturday, September 17, SEPAR Commenced its ongoing training for 2016 at fire hall 9. Peter ve7pgx reaffirmed SEPAR's mandate on what we provide as communicators. Like any organization, it

(Continued on page 15)

also requires the paperwork. In this case, how to fill out the message format. More importantly, how to log the message as it travels from one work station to another. Operational logs are important and need to be filled out properly.

The training session is repeated the following Thursday night, from 19:00 - 21:00 hrs, at fire hall 9, Training Centre.

7. SHAKEOUT BC. On October 20 at 10:20 a.m., millions of people worldwide will practice how to “Drop, Cover and Hold On” during Great Shakeout Earthquake Drills.

British Columbians can join by registering for the 2016 Great British Columbia Shakeout or check in to Net Control at 10:20 am PDT. Plan Your Drill

Shakeout Drill and Participant Guide:

Drop, Cover, and Hold On.

8. Emergency Disaster Plan. It was stated that it would take about 20 minutes to create in an earlier issue of the SEPAR Weekly.

Be prepared to be on your own by putting together an emergency plan. An Emergency Plan is vital - it will give you peace of mind to know that your family is prepared. Along with everything below, make sure you have a Personal Emergency Supply kit for your home, workplace, and vehicle. Practice makes perfect.

Develop a Household Emergency Plan to help you and your family know what to do after an emergency or if you need to evacuate your home or neighbourhood. It will take you about 20 minutes to prepare your plan.

When creating your plan:

- Assign specific tasks to family member like gathering pets, collecting the supplies, providing first aid, etc.
- List the most important items to be taken with you and only those that can be hand carried.
- Mark the date you prepared your plan and update it as changes occur.

- Keep your plan in a place that's easy to find and to remember (e.g. with your emergency kit) as well as other locations such as your car, work and on your computer.
- Make sure everyone in the household knows about the plan. Practice it with everyone at least once a year. How about on October 20, 2016 at 10:20 hours, SHAKEOUT BC.

Escape Routes

- Make sure you and everyone in your family/household knows all the escape routes.
- Draw a floor plan of your home showing main and alternate exits from each room, as well as locations of extinguishers, water and gas valves, electrical box, emergency supplies, and an outdoor meeting place.
- If you live in an apartment, plan to use the stairs rather than the elevators. If you would be unable to use the stairs, notify Surrey Fire Service ahead of time so that the information is put on file.
- Make note of escape route options from your neighbourhood.

Meeting Places

Identify a safe place near the home (e.g. at a neighbour's) and away from the home (e.g. at a relative's home, local school or church) where everyone should meet if they have to leave during an emergency.

The meeting place near your home should be on the same side of the street as your home, so you don't need to cross the street into traffic or in front of emergency vehicles.

Emergency Contact Information

Create an emergency contact list with all of the following identified. Leave a copy close to your telephone and in your emergency kits at home, work and vehicle. Make sure

Make sure everyone in the household knows about the plan.



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(Continued from page 15)

everyone has a copy in their wallet or programmed into their cell phone.

- Local emergency numbers
- Fire, police, ambulance: 911
- Poison control

Have the following for Family contacts and friend/neighbour contacts:

- Include information for all household members other and relatives.
- Name
- Phone numbers: home, work, cell
- Email address
- Home address

Work/school/child care contacts

- Employer name, address and phone numbers
- School name, address and phone numbers
- Daycare or child care provider name, address and phone numbers
- Designated person for pickup of children from school or daycare - name, address and phone numbers

Out of town contacts

Plan for each family member to contact the same out-of-town contact person in the event of an emergency. Everyone should call this person, tell them where they are and how they are doing, and arrange a future check-in time.

Choose a contact who lives far enough away (e.g. out of province) that he or she will probably not be affected by the same event. Choose someone with voicemail or an answering machine, and who lives in a long-distance area since long-distance service is often easier to obtain after a disaster.

If you are new to Canada or don't have an out-of-town contact person, make arrangements through friends, cultural associations or community organizations.

Important Documents and Records

When disaster strikes, you may need to access important contact numbers and household documents.

Keep copies in two secure locations, such as a safety deposit box, fireproof safe or watertight bags in the freezer.

You could also exchange documents with others you trust or upload to a secure location on the internet (e.g. secure cloud storage).

Gather copies of information such as:

- House insurance policies, photos/receipts to assist with claims, and contact information
- Life insurance or other policies and contact information
- Deeds
- Wills
- Tax records
- Birth certificates
- Health records and personal medical information such as prescriptions (medication and eye), allergies and special needs
- Social insurance numbers
- Passport numbers
- Bank/financial account numbers
- Vehicle make, plate number and identification number
- Utility companies: gas, hydro, internet, telephone
- Lawyer contact information
- Doctor, dentist and other medical service provider contact information
- Landlord contact information
- Security alarm company contact information

<http://www.surrey.ca/city-services/18852.aspx>

These are only a guideline. Many organizations offer their checklist for Emergency Plans and Emergency Kits. There are a lot of them out there.

Never too late to be prepared.

~ Garvin VA7YEE





Adam's Tech Topics

Adam Foley N1RKW

Equipment Repair or Restoration

Last night I was running the Thursday night 6 meter net as I often do, and I asked the group if they had any questions that they'd like me to try answering in my upcoming article. Most of you have, at one time or another, heard me ask or beg for more ideas for this series, so I'm certain that no one was surprised to hear it. Shortly after the net, Pasha W1LMT called me on the radio and posed a very good question that follows along from last month's article. I wrote down his question, but I can barely interpret my own shorthand so I'll have to paraphrase.

"When looking for equipment to repair or restore, what should one look for?" I suppose I probably shouldn't have used quotation marks when paraphrasing...

I could simply answer it by saying, "Look for stuff you like." However, the question wasn't actually that simple, and it doesn't actually have a simple answer. The question he asked is actually several questions in one: Who is looking for the equipment? What kind of equipment are they looking for? For what purpose? What will they do with it after?

For example, if someone is looking for something to fix up and then to sell, they might be looking for something that is in good condition cosmetically and needs very little work to make as good as new. On the other hand, someone who is just looking for a piece of equipment to use as a tool on their own workbench might not care about cosmetics and might be looking for something that works already or just needs a bit of adjustment. Another person might be looking for a restoration project, and might not care about cosmetics or function, but is only looking for something

that is complete and intact. And then there is someone like me, who doesn't really care about any of these things and just wants to find stuff that's "cool" to add to his collection.

With these examples in mind, I'd like to break down the answer to Pasha's excellent question by giving different answers for different people.

For the person who wants to add a tool to his or her toolbox:

Let's use an antenna switch as our example piece of equipment (Hey, it's a tool! I swear!) because they are something that is plentiful enough that they are commonly seen at the usual purchasing places in a range of conditions. Someone who needs an antenna switch to use regularly in their shack but is on a limited budget might not be concerned if the thing looks like it spent most of its life in the pit of an oil-change shop. The switch this person is looking for could be ugly, grubby, and barely legible, but it must be at least functional or could become so fairly easily, and it must be cheap inexpensive. Once this person acquires their new/old antenna switch, they could clean it up, fix it up, or do whatever else is needed to make it a useful part of their station. This holds true for any other device or "thing" that the tool shopper (not to imply that the shopper is a tool) would be looking for. Look for cheap and serviceable.

"...When looking for equipment to repair or restore, what should one look for?"



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If it looks like it's been used as a doorstep for the last 40 years, one should probably avoid it and move on to the next one.

For the person who wants to find a project to clean up and re-sell:

Those who are looking for a project to give a bit of polish to and re-sell later will probably be looking for something that is fully intact, appears to have been properly taken care of, hasn't been extensively modified, isn't missing anything that can't be replaced, and isn't hiding major problems inside a pretty exterior. Being dirty won't likely be a problem, unless the dirt is hiding larger issues such as corrosion or mold. For example, if one is looking for an antique radio to clean up and re-sell, one should look for a radio that has all of its knobs, has a good looking indicator/dial, has its back cover in place with no warping or severe discoloration (which could indicate issues from moisture intrusion), and it should at least have the appearance of being functional. If it looks like it's been used as a doorstep for the last 40 years, one should probably avoid it and move on to the next one. However, if it's only obvious issues are a couple of minor dings and a layer of dust, it might just be a good radio.

For the person who is looking for a restoration project:

This person can afford to be a little less picky about the overall condition of the device...

Aw, heck. Let's just call whatever it is a "radio" for the remainder of this article and save me a bunch of time with my thesaurus.

Thanks!

As I was saying, this person can afford to be less picky about the overall condition of the radio they're looking at. If the radio has exterior dents, missing knobs, and maybe even missing parts inside, it might not be a big problem, as a person who is used to restoring old gear will probably have some or all of these parts on hand already.

However, it should at least be in such a condition that it can be cleaned up and repaired. Mold, rust, and other forms of damage that can't generally be repaired in a reasonable fashion should be avoided unless the radio in question is being purchased for parts for a very small amount of money. Another thing that should generally be avoided is anything that appears chewed or has other signs of vermin. These things can actually be dangerous to your health, and generally aren't worth the risk unless they are very rare or valuable in some other way. Just make sure to make an informed decision before handling such things.

For the person who wants something because it... Squirrel!

Whether it's a meter full of nixie tubes, an oscilloscope that looks like it came straight off the set of original Star Trek, your favorite kind of laser, or it was the soldering iron that got man to the Moon, there's always something for the collector. I can't possibly tell you what to look for, though you probably want something in decent enough shape that you can actually tell what it is without soaking it in cleaning solvent for 6 weeks.

I hope these examples help. It's hard to answer a question that is so different for everyone without getting into what I look for rather than what others likely should look for.

What the heck, I'll go into what I look for also.

For the person who writes Communicator articles, sits on his duff all day, and is N1RKW:

I tend to look for things that go overlooked by others, because those things are usually cheap. For instance, I recently picked up an HP counter in working condition (accurate to within 4 Hz at 10 MHz!) for only \$15. To give you some idea why that's such a good deal, this particular piece of equipment cost something close to the value of a decent house when it was new in 1965, from what I've been told. For this device to still be accurate 50 years later says something about the quality of its construction. That is the sort of thing I



look for. I like odd and unusual stuff, stuff no one else likes, weird test equipment, normal test equipment, old kits, new kits, things I can tear apart for the parts and pieces inside, parts and pieces sold loose so I don't have to tear anything apart, stuff that's beyond reasonable hope so that it will keep me busy for a long time, stuff that I can fix easily so that I can sell it to fund my hobbies, stuff that makes pretty sparks, pretty much anything that can be loosely described with the word "radio", anything electronic that looks like it was inspired by either art-deco or space ships, anything electronic that has knobs, dials, meters, and buttons on the front, anything electronic that has vacuum tubes in it, anything electronic that mounts into a 19" rack, anything electronic that has transistors in it, anything electronic that will give you a shock if you stick your finger into the wrong place, and anything electronic that does something electronically.

I guess you could call me a bit of a hoarder when it comes to electronics, but really all I want is to get myself set up with the best possible radio repair shop I can afford to set up. Anything beyond those needs generally ends up getting sold once I've fixed it up in order to fund this madness.

For everyone:

There is one thing that everyone should have in their shack, home, workspace, or wherever they happen to spend their time, and that thing is information. Keep your eyes open for opportunities to expand your knowledge base and your reference library. There are an amazing amount of things available online that can be added to your digital library with a simple download, and there are some really great books out there that can be of enormous help to you. I highly recommend the ARRL handbook. Get one from any year, as they are all excellent resources, but if you can get your hands on some from multiple years or even decades, you'll have access to information that often can't be found elsewhere. I also highly recommend the entire series of books that Forrest Mims wrote for Radio Shack. These books are

how I got started in electronics when I was a kid, along with a toy that's sadly no longer made that allowed me to make different circuits with plug-in blocks, much like the Radio-Shack 100-In-One and other similar kits did. I recommend downloading and keeping the manuals and service manuals for all electronics that you own, as well as any others that you may be interested in. Be sure to keep them well organized so that you can find them later. In short, gather all of the information you need and want, and keep it close at hand and well organized. You never know when you might need it!

Thank you for reading this far, if you are indeed still doing so. I appreciate all of the kind remarks I have received about the articles I've written. I really do.

If you wish to give me any more kind remarks, clever repartee, witticisms, criticisms, schisms, or any other "isms", you can email me the usual way (my call at hot mail), or you can shout for me on 146.985. I'm there fairly often, though not as often as I would like.

~ Adam Foley N1RKW
Reprinted with permission



Me? A radio hoarder?
Naaaah.

Adam Foley N1RKW has been around ham radio most of his life, but didn't smarten up and get his license until 2008. Since then he has gone on to great heights (the 12' high roof of his old house, and the 3rd floor apartment he's in now), and recently decided to take up writing a monthly column about ham radio and electronics, two of the subjects he knows a little bit about (but not much). He lives in Laconia, NH with his incredibly tolerant wife and equally tolerant son and can be reached at I can be reached by email via N1RKW at hotmail dot com.

October 2016



Calling For Volunteers

JOTA—Scouting Jamboree On The Air

*Surrey AR OTC, Saturday,
Oct 15, 2016 from 10AM to 2PM*

Schedule:

*9:30 - Hams arrive - Station
Setup*

*10:00 - Scouts start arriving
and go on air looking for
contacts with other scouts*

- *Static display of equipment*
- *Morse Code Demo*
- *Mini Fox Hunt?*

12:00 Lunch

14:00 Station shutdown

JOTA-JOTI is the largest Scouting event in the world with over 1 million Scouts participating across 150+ countries. The event is held the third weekend of October - for 2016 it's the 14th, 15th & 16th October. Although the JOTA/JOTI event runs the entire weekend, 14th, 15th & 16th October 2016, we have been approached by the local scouts to open our station on Saturday only.

The group has committed to providing proper participant supervision, we provide the station supervision and, if we have adequate response, provide some additional 'fun' activities to give these young people an introduction to our hobby. There is a digital contest that afternoon, so we might be able to provide some exposure to that mode as well.

Anyone who would like to participate, please respond to John VE7TI [ve7ti @ outlook.com](mailto:ve7ti@outlook.com), your comments, suggestions etc., are welcome. The scouts have been a source of students for our course. Together we can show the kids the fun side of radio and hopefully attract a few more to the hobby.

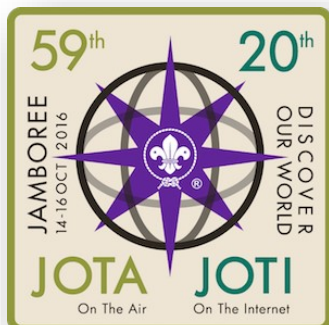
There are some basic rules that should be followed:

All radio operators must operate their stations strictly in accordance with their national licensing regulations;

Stations should call "CQ Jamboree" or answer Scout stations calling to establish a contact;

Any authorized frequency may be used. It is recommended that stations use the agreed World Scout Calling Frequencies listed below as starting points. To avoid congestion, other frequencies close by should be used as well.

The JOTA is not a contest. The idea is not to contact as many stations as possible during the weekend. It is about Scout to Scout conversations to learn about one another and the country where they reside.



World Scout Calling Frequencies

The listed frequencies are "calling frequencies." After you make contact with a station, ideally you'll QSY (move) to another frequency and leave the calling frequency open for others to establish contact.

HF SSB Voice

80 meters — 3.940 MHz and 3.690 MHz where authorized.
40 meters — 7.190 MHz and 7.090 MHz where authorized.
20 meters — 14.290 MHz
17 meters — 18.140 MHz
15 meters — 21.360 MHz
12 meters — 24.960 MHz
10 meters — 28.390 MHz
6 meters — 50.160 MHz

HF CW Morse Code

80 meters — 3.570 MHz
40 meters — 7.030 MHz
20 meters — 14.060 MHz
17 meters — 18.080 MHz
15 meters — 21.140 MHz
12 meters — 24.910 MHz
10 meters — 28.180 MHz
6 meters — 50.160 MHz



Radio-Active

Geoff Higginson VA7HIG

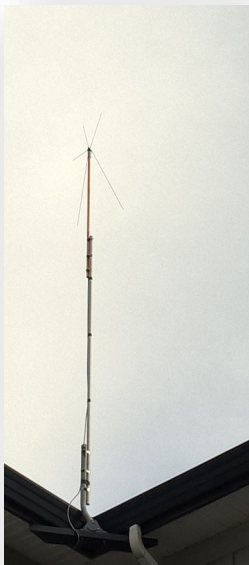
Profiles of SARC Members

Once Bitten Never Shy

Recently Certified Basic with Honours “Ham” Steve McLean VE7 SXM is not new to Amateur Radio. Steve was taken by radio in his teen years building antennas at home for his CB Rig in Victoria BC. Fired up about radio he studied for his ham license then; learning all the diagrams, regulations and working hard to learn code with his “Heathkit” tone generator, and the motivation of a master code man in his family, his uncle, who operated at 65 wpm in the merchant marine.

Fast forward some decades and Steve found himself improving his FRS radios for his “bush” expeditions with friends by building a portable j-pole tuned to 462 megahertz to stay in better contact with members of his hunting parties. One of his friends suggested they do the “Ham Thing” and soon he was in class with Gary VE7 AS and earning his certification.

Starting with his Baofeng and a mag mount on the side of the house Steve has since completed his Amateur Arsenal with a B-Tech (Baofeng) 2500 Dual Band Mobile, Several Baofeng Dual Band Portables, and a Yaesu FT 911 all band base station with j-pole and long wire rounding his home in the Newton Area.



Steve’s enthusiasm is amazing. Listening to him at the club breakfast I was drawn in to his extensive experience with antennas and was thrilled to learn some great techniques and ideas for my own base station and portable operations. He has built a tunable j-pole that can adjust resonance without bending or soldering endlessly and found a great repeater book application where he can cut and paste repeater frequencies, offsets and tones from the application to the “Chirp” software when programming his portables and mobile rig. A great fan of Amazon Steve finds most of his radio equipment there, some gems like the Baofeng 8 Watt portable and accessories making portable operations even more effective in the woods.

Working in tech, Steve shares his home with his bride Kelly and three children poised to leave the nest. Here’s to all of our “first bites” and how it keeps us **Radio Active** for life.

~ Geoff VA7HIG



**Steve McLean
VE7SXM**



October 2016



A Discone for the OTC

A discone antenna is a version of a biconical antenna in which one of the cones is replaced by a disc. It is usually mounted vertically, with the disc at the top and the cone beneath. Omni-directional, vertically polarized and with gain similar to a dipole, it is exceptionally wideband, offering a frequency range ratio of up to approximately 10:1. The radiation pattern in the horizontal plane is quite narrow, making its sensitivity highest in the direction of the horizon and rather less for signals coming from relatively close by.

My "quick" install of the donated wide band discone antenna took much longer than planned. Assembly was straight forward but had to be done on the roof. It was a major pain to install on the mast without a small step ladder as it has to be high enough that the lower spokes don't hit the mast

The thin coax that I was going to use had been pulled back down into the upstairs ceiling so that had to be run back up and then it was still too short so I had to release all the cables from the radio room to get extra slack so the roof cables could all lay flat on the roof and reduce the tripping hazard.

The slack also allowed me to push the grounding box completely under the ducting without damaging any coax to help protect it from the weather and UV. The cable tie down screws were loosened and all cables were zip tied neatly. All four of the lighting arresters in the grounding box are now in use.

All coax in the radio room was re-strapped neatly to the piping. The thin coax was short so I dropped that straight down at the VHF station. It isn't connected but should be fine there especially if a 4th computer is put there for SDR and VHF+ use.

The discone antenna can actually be used to transmit on several bands. My SWR meter only goes to about 72MHz but did show 1.0:1 for the 6m band. Likely not the most efficient but can be used in a pinch for its listed bands.

~ Sheldon VA7XNL

The Radio Amateur (Canada) Swap Site

Hello, my name Aaren (VA7AEJ). I found your contact information by visiting hundreds of websites for Amateur Radio clubs, groups, etc. across Canada.

I've just launched RASwap.ca - Radio Amateur Swap Canada

It is a coast to coast Canadian classified ad site just for Ham Radio gear. Think of it like Craigslist or Kijiji without the used cars and old refrigerators.

A one stop shop to list your For Sale or Wanted items. Accounts are FREE and the classified ad's are FREE to post. Access is limited to Canadian Amateurs (via their callsign at registration).

Shop without having to ship across international borders (no customs and duty fees) and all items are listed in Canadian dollars.

If you run a local Buy & Sell / Swap & Shop this is an alternate way for your members to reach a larger audience. If you are a webmaster who spends most of their time posting peoples ads manually, this might be a way for you to offload that work?

Over the coming weeks I'll be adding more tweaks and features.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated. and any help you can give me promoting my one-man operation is truly great.

Please share with EVERYONE in your circle of ham friends.



Ham Tidbits

Common Interference Sources

From the RFI Digest, Vol 163, Issue 38

I am relaying the event of my ham friend, Ken, W9IE, who has been plagued with serious RFI spurs on all bands 20 meters and above. It bothered him for several years. It made some frequencies on two meters unusable including 146.94 FM. It varied in frequency in that it slowly drifted across the FM repeater channel. Using a portable receiver it was determined to be outside his house (he did pull all the breakers in his house). Next suspect was the Comcast distribution amplifier high on a pole outside his house. For some reason he followed the cable drops radiating from the pole in each direction using his radio to track the noise. One path took him to the next door neighbor where the noise got quite loud. Ah ha!... he says. The neighbor was very cooperative and they systematically opened breakers in the power panel. A quick survey revealed a Hitachi 7.2 to 14 volt Ni-Cad/Ni-MH (model UC-14VFA) cordless drill battery charger that was plugged in all the time. Testing showed RFI anytime the charger was plugged in, battery or not caused serious RFI. Ken took his neighbor to a local big box store and bought him a new Dewalt cordless drill system. Ken joked he was glad that the noise did not come from a washing machine or flat screen TV.

Neighbor rewarded for being cooperative and the was problem solved! 73,

~ Brian W9HLQ

And more ...

Yet another example of a Switch-Mode Power Supply (SMPS). THIS IS NOT NEW, GUYS! SMPS are a VERY VERY VERY VERY common cause of RFI. Virtually every wall wart, line lump, computer power supply, and battery charger IS an SMPS. Most equipment that plugs into the wall contains an SMPS.

<http://k9yc.com/KillingReceiveNoise.pdf>

BTW - there's a very high likelihood that the charger for the new drill you bought also is an SMPS, and that you will hear it on other bands. One of the characteristics of an SMPS is that the RF trash it produces is stronger on some bands than others.

~ Jim K9YC



*Testing showed RFI
anytime the charger
was plugged in*

Is He Really That Clumsy?

Vancouver electrical engineer Mehdi Sadaghdar having a bit of fun with E&M that comes off as more S&M. Take a look at this video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/etq6GIDYc-k>



October 2016



***Patrick George Doherty, VE3PD
Silent Key***

Radio Amateurs of Canada has received the sad news that former RAC President, Pat Doherty, VE3PD, became a Silent Key on Monday September 5, 2016 at age 81.

Please see the online [obituary notice](#).

***RAC Simulated Emergency Test
Exercise on October 8th***

This nationwide exercise is the chance to test your emergency operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in an emergency-like deployment.

RAC Field Organization Leaders at the Section and local levels, along with many other volunteers who are active in public service and emergency communications, are developing simulated emergency scenarios in consultation with served agencies.

To find out how you can step up and be a part of the local or Section-level activities, contact your Section Manager. You can find contact information for all RAC Section Managers on page 4 of any issue of The Canadian Amateur.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the National Traffic System (NTS) and members of the RAC Field Organization will participate and practise emergency operation plans, nets and procedures.

The RAC Simulated Emergency Test is an ideal opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities of Amateur Radio. Community and public service agency officials will learn first-hand by taking a role in the SET and by providing an objective evaluation afterwards from their perspective. Have designated stations originate messages on behalf of served agencies. Test messages may be sent simulating requests for supplies. Simulated emergency messages (just like real emergency messages) should be signed by an authorized official.

Formulate your plans around a man-made or natural simulated disaster. Possible scenes could be: a flood; a serious fire; a severe ice storm; a missing person; a serious accident (automobile, bus, aircraft); a broken gas line; or any other imaginable disaster. Elaborate on the situation by developing a scenario to be implemented during the SET.

Your help is needed and the RAC SET is a great way to get involved in emergency communications.

For more information on guidelines, preparing and reporting for a SET, forms for RAC Field Leaders are posted on the RAC website at:
<http://wp.rac.ca/welcome/simulated-emergency-test/>

PREPARE

October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
For details on all SARC events, go to ve7sar.net For details on all SEPARS events, go to separ.shutterfly.com/calendar						1 0900 Klub Koffee Klatch: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81st Ave.
2 DARS ComFest See page 12 CONTEST: All-Asian DX (SSB)	3	4 1915 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	5	6 1930 SEPAR Simplex Check-in	7	8 0900 Klub Koffee Klatch: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81st Ave. CONTEST: Arizona & Pennsylvania QSO Oceania DX CW
9 CONTEST: Arizona & Pennsylvania QSO Party Oceania DX CW North America SSB Sprint	10 Thanksgiving 	11 1915 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	12 SARC General Meeting	13 1930 SEPAR Simplex Check-in	14	15 0900 Klub Koffee Klatch: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81st Ave. 1000 JOTA event at the OTC CONTEST: JARTS WW RTTY
16 CONTEST: JARTS WW RTTY	17	18 1915 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	19	20 1930 SEPAR Simplex Check-in	21	22 0800 Klub Koffee Klatch: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81st Ave.
23/30 Oct 30 CONTEST: CQ WW DX SSB	24/31	25 1915 SEPAR Net 2000 SARC Net	26 SARC Exec Meeting	27 1930 SEPAR Simplex Check-in	28	29 0800 Klub Koffee Klatch: Kalmar Family Restaurant, King George Blvd & 81st Ave. CONTEST: CQ WW DX SSB
Contest Details: http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html						

October 2016

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Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements can also be found on our web page, or via:

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The Final Word...

John Brodie VA7XB

Adventures with my PC

VA7XB Buys an SSD for his PC

My desktop PC, which is the nerve centre for all my LAN and just about everything I do with a computer, had been running slower and slower over the past months. The PC was giving me concern because the hard drive had been chugging along for around 5 years and I was concerned it might crash some time soon. I was using an external hard drive for backup, but they don't last forever either. Something had to be done.

I decided I needed an additional (new) hard drive for reliable backup. I had an almost-new HD on hand from a previous PC installation so I decided to use it. With some trepidation, I opened up the side panel on my PC and found an available slot for the new one, but only one available cable connector, which appeared to be the data cable. So far so good, but I could see I needed another cable, this one probably for the power supply. Now I could probably purchase the cable and complete the installation myself, but decided at this point to simply take the PC into the shop and get it done by someone who knew what he was doing. So off I went to Slaco Computers on 137th St near 73rd Ave in Surrey.

Much to my surprise, they told me to take a seat and watch while they completed the installation. They had the necessary cable on hand and the whole job took about 10 minutes. Yes, I could have done the same thing if I had the cable, but it was worth the \$20 labour + \$8 for the cable they charged to do it for me. They also cleaned out the dust that had built up on the fan. Fast, friendly and cheap!

I took the PC home and transferred all my critical files to the new drive. All worked well, but I still had the problem of slow

operation and concern about a potential crash on the original HD, which still hosted the operating system and other software

I had been hearing about the advantages of solid state drives (SSDs) for some time from Stan VA7NF and Jim VE7FO, during planning of a computer upgrade for Jim's station. I'm one of those dummies who has trouble making things work on a PC, so I hesitated before taking the plunge.

So a few weeks ago, I unplugged all the cables on my PC and went back to Slaco for installation of the SSD. I left the computer with them for the day, as I was told that installation would take some time if I wanted Windows 10 installed. Got a phone call about 6 hours later to say all was ready. The cost was \$170, which included a 256 GB SSD and labour charges. I took it home and found it started fine and gave me the Win10 startup screen as expected. Now I had 3 drives: the old HD, the new HD and the SSD. Then came the hard part, as I hadn't realized that I would have to reinstall all my software. However, it eventually got done and now the PC runs like a dream. It boots up in about 30 seconds whereas it used to take about 5 minutes. This is a big improvement for a small investment.

~ John VA7XB





It's October

This month we meet on Wednesday, October 12th. Stan has arranged an informative program with a guest speaker on ballooning and it's ham radio features.

If you have not yet paid your dues, you are now overdue and this will be your final Communicator, so please keep our accounts healthy and pay Scott at the meeting, send a cheque, or visit PayPal on-line.

Down The Log...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wed. (Sept-Jun)
1900 hr at the PREOC
Emergency Mgmt BC
14275 96th Avenue,
Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Coffee

Saturday at 0900 hr
Kalmar Family Restaurant
8076 King George Blvd.
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hr local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

SEPARS Nets

Tuesday at 1930 hr local
on 147.360 MHz (+)
Tone=110.9

Thursday at 1930 hr local
Simplex 147.550 MHz

VE7RSC Repeaters

2m: 147.360MHz+
Tone= 110.9Hz
IRLP node 1736
Echolink node 496228

1.2m: 223.960 Mhz -1.6
Tone=110.9

70cm: 443.775MHz+
Tone= 110.9Hz
IRLP node 1737

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1736 and Echolink node 496228.

On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 or IRLP Node 1737.

	SARC Net 20:00 Hrs
1 st Tuesday Standby	Drew VA7DRW Rob VE7CZV
2 nd Tuesday Standby	Jinty VA7JMR Sheldon VA7XNL
3 rd Tuesday Standby	Dixie VA7DIX Rob VE7CZV
4 th Tuesday Standby	Kapila VE7KGK John VA7XB
5 th Tuesday Standby	Robert VA7FMR Rob VE7CZV
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager	



We Have A SARC Patch!

These are suitable for sewing on a jacket, cap or your jammies, so you can proudly display your support for the club.

The price is \$4 each or three for \$10 and they can be picked up at a meeting or the weekly Koffee Klatch.

We thank our sponsors for their SARC support. Please support them.

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President/Owner
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